

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 /075 W

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R 240749Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2776  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EAGR ET

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY VIEWS ON ETHIOPIAN LAND REFORM

1. DURING JANUARY 22 CONVERSATION WITH ECON COUNSELOR, RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, SERGUEI P. LJUBIMOV, INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE CURRENT ETHIOPIAN REGIME WOULD UNDERTAKE A DRASTIC LAND REFORM PROGRAM, I.E., NATIONALIZE ALL LAND INCLUDING SMALL HOLDINGS. HE STATED THAT ETHIOPIA COULD NOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AN INEVITABLE RESULT OF TOTAL NATIONALIZATION OF LAND. HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE ETHIOPIA IS READY FOR SUCH AN APPROACH TO THE AGRARIAN SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

COMMENT. LJIBIMOV'S OPINION APPEARED TO BE BASED ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A RATIONAL APPROACH TO THE LAND REFORM ISSUE RATHER THAN ON ANY INSIDE INFORMATION. HIS COMMENTS CERTAINLY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RATHER INCOMPREHENSIBLE INTEREST WHICH MANY DIRG MEMBERS HAVE LONG SHOWN IN A DRASTIC "TOTAL NATIONALIZATION" FORMULA FOR LAND REFORM WHICH ALMOST ALL FOREIGN OBSERVERS BELIEVE WOULD SET OFF CIVIL WAR IN THIS COUNTRY.

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WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND NATIONALIZATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS00882  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750027-0043  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ECON, EAGR, ET, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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